



WESTHOUGHTON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# **Annual Report**

of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
for the year 1972



Westhoughton Urban District Council

Health Committee

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. W. Kettle

Vice Chairman: Councillor C.J. Thomas

Councillors:-

G. Jones

R. Hart

J. Smith

Miss M. McIntyre

R. Greenhalgh

W.P. Higham

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health:

Ellis Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

Wilson Scott Astall

R.S.H. Certificates  
Public Health Inspector  
Meat and Other Foods and  
Smoke Inspector.

Deputy Public Health Inspector:

Walter F. Maling

R.S.H. Certificates  
Public Health Inspector  
and Meat and Other Foods

Clerical Assistant:

Miss J. Aldred

Cleansing Foreman:

Albert Chadwick

Technical Assistant (Smoke Control):

Donald Ratcliffe



To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present, for your information and consideration, the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Westhoughton, for the year, 1972.

STATISTICS

The estimated population of the district in 1972 was 17,570 a decrease of 110 on the figure ascertained for 1971.

During the year a total of 218 births were registered, of which 3 were stillborn, so that the Live Birth Rate for the year under review is 12.2 as against 13.2 the previous year, and the Still Birth Rate 14.0 as against 8.0 in 1971.

Three infants failed to survive to their first birthday, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 14.0 for the year, compared with five deaths and a rate of 21.0 in the previous year.

I am pleased to be able to report that there has been no maternal death. The Maternal Mortality Rate, therefore, is nil.

The number of deaths, from all causes was 210 giving a Crude Death Rate of 12.0 and an adjusted rate of 13.2.

The ratio of the local adjusted birth rate to the national rate is 0.88 and the ratio of the local adjusted death rate to the national rate is 1.09. The birth rate is therefore somewhat lower and the death rate somewhat higher than the national average.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Lancashire County Council, through its Divisional Health Scheme 1947, has continued to provide the personal health services in the district, details of which will be found in Section B of the Report, together with certain information in regard to other services.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

During the year the environmental hygiene of the district has been kept under close supervision. Over six thousand visits were made to a wide variety of premises. One thousand four hundred and sixty seven defects or contraventions were discovered and one thousand five hundred and seventy five abated. One hundred and fifty seven informal notices were served in addition to sixteen statutory notices. Formal notices were also served in relation to unfit houses under the Housing Act, 1957.



The provision of satisfactory standards of housing is recognised as being of prime importance in achieving a healthy environment and while for some years development in the district has been restricted due to inadequate sewerage facilities, this problem will be overcome in the near future. One hundred and thirteen persons were displaced from unfit houses during the year and apart from a few persons finding their own accommodation were rehoused by the Council. The Council's 1967/72 Clearance Programme has largely been completed though rehousing from that Programme will continue during 1973. A new Clearance Programme of 105 houses has been formulated for the period 1973/77.

The pace of house improvement has quickened considerably both in the private and council house sector and is making a significant contribution in raising the standard of housing in the district. The object has been to ensure full modernisation of sound older properties to a high standard.

Reconstruction of the main sewerage works at Rogers Farm is well advanced and the Rivers Board Authority are now prepared to allow development to proceed. A contract for main drainage construction costing over one and a half million pounds has been awarded and will commence early next year.

Over two thousand enquiries were recorded at the department from members of the public during the year and these covered a wide variety of matters in most fields of Public Health. There is an increasing tendency for complaints to be made about noise from industrial and commercial premises and undoubtedly this aspect of public health work will continue to increase in importance. The question of noise levels at the planning stage of any development is now recognised as a vital aspect of control.

No. 8 Smoke Control Order comprising one hundred and seventy seven acres of land bounded by Manchester Road, Park Road and Bolton Road and including four hundred and seventy nine premises was made by the Council in August and will come into operation in October, 1973. About 3,500 premises are now subject to Smoke Control Orders. It is anticipated smoke control will be completed by the year 1980. Many houses not actually within smoke control areas are in fact using piped fuels and are therefore smokeless. There is little industrial pollution in Westhoughton.

Food premises have as far as possible been regularly inspected and undoubtedly this aspect of public health work requires constant attention. While there is satisfaction in achieving structural improvements at food premises the education of food handlers in the clean handling of food and its preparation is of particular importance. Three hundred and thirty seven visits were made in connection with this aspect of our work during the year.

I am pleased to report that a satisfactory refuse collection service has been maintained. There has been a considerable increase in collections of bulky refuse and over thirteen hundred separate visits were made.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There has been no significant incidence of infectious disease during the year.

Details of the various diseases concerned, will be found in Section F of the Report.

Yours faithfully,

E. Taylor

Medical Officer of Health



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## SECTION A

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

#### GENERAL

Area of the district in acres	5,554
Population - 1961 census	16,254
Population - 1971 census (preliminary figure)	17,729
Number of inhabited houses at end of year	6,492
Sum represented by a penny rate	£5,320

#### VITAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a) <u>Live Births</u> - Legitimate	101	100	201
Illegitimate	9	5	14
	<u>110</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>215</u>

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000  
population) - 12.2

(b) <u>Still Births</u>	-	3	3
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) - 14.0			
(c) <u>Total Live and Still Births</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>218</u>

#### DEATHS

(a) Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	3
(b) Infant Mortality Rates	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	14.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	10.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	71.0
(c) Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	14.0
(d) Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	14.0

DEATHS (cont'd)

(e)	Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	28.0
(f)	Maternal Mortality:	
	Number of deaths	NIL
	Maternal Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	NIL
(g)	Cancer	33
(h)	Heart Disease	69
(i)	Measles	NIL
(j)	Whooping Cough	NIL
(k)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	8
(l)	Pneumonia	24
(m)	Tuberculosis:	
	Pulmonary	NIL
	Non-Pulmonary	NIL
(n)	<u>All causes:-</u>	
	Male	123
	Female	87
	Total	210
	Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	
(a)	Crude	12.0
(b)	Adjusted	13.2

Birth and Death Rates for England and Wales for the  
year 1972 with corresponding figures for Westhoughton.

Rates per 1,000 Home Population	
<u>England &amp; Wales</u>	<u>Westhoughton</u>

BIRTHS:-

Live Births	14.8	12.2	
Still Births	12.0	14.0	(a)

DEATHS:-

All causes	12.1	12.0	
Tuberculosis;(all forms):	0.030	Nil	
Respiratory	0.027	Nil	
Other	0.004	Nil	
Cancer (all forms):	2.43	1.88	
Trachea, Lung and bronchus	0.65	0.45	
Other cancer	1.78	1.43	
Maternal Mortality (total)	0.15 (a)	Nil (a)	
Infant Mortality (total)	17.0 (b)	14.0 (b)	
Neo-natal Mortality	12.0 (b)	14.0 (b)	
Early neo-natal Mortality	10.0 (b)	14.0 (b)	
Perinatal Mortality	22.0 (a)	28.0 (a)	

NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)

Measles	2.971	1.14	
Dysentery	0.184	Nil	
Scarlet Fever	0.228	0.05	
Whooping Cough	0.042	Nil	
Infective Jaundice	0.250	Nil	
Tuberculosis:			
Respiratory	0.177	0.05	
Meninges and C.N.S.	0.002	Nil	
Other forms	0.046	0.10	
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	
Tetanus	Nil	Nil	
Acute Meningitis	0.032	0.05	
Acute Encephalitis:		Nil	
Infective	0.001	Nil	
Post Infectious	0.002	Nil	
Ophthalmia neonatorum	0.007	Nil	
Acute poliomyelitis:		Nil	
Paralytic	Nil	Nil	
Non-paralytic	Nil	Nil	
Leptospirosis	Nil	Nil	
Paratyphoid fever	0.002	Nil	
Typhoid fever	0.003	Nil	
Food poisoning	0.111	Nil	
Anthrax	Nil	Nil	

Birth and Death Rates (cont'd)

Notifications (Corrected) (cont'd)

Smallpox	Nil	Nil
Plague	Nil	Nil
Cholera	Nil	Nil
Typhus fever	Nil	Nil
Relapsing fever	Nil	Nil
Yellow fever	Nil	Nil

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 live births.

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics for the years 1967-1972

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of regis- tered deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Nec-natal	
									No. of regis- tered deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of regis- tered deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1972	215	12.2	210	12.0	3	14.0	NIL	NIL	3	14.0	3	14.0
Year 1971	234	13.2	238	13.5	2	8.0	NIL	NIL	5	21.0	3	13.0
Year 1970	253	14.2	216	12.1	5	19.0	1	3.8	7	28.0	6	24.0
Year 1969	269	15.3	208	11.8	7	25.0	NIL	NIL	6	22.0	7	26.0
Year 1968	247	14.2	249	14.3	7	28.0	NIL	NIL	6	24.0	5	20.0
Year 1967	299	17.0	211	12.2	5	17.0	NIL	NIL	10	34.0	7	24.0
Average 5 years 1967 - 1971	260	14.8	224	12.8	5.0	19.0	NIL	0.7	7.0	26.0	6.0	21.0



The following table gives the number of deaths  
from the various causes, during the year - 1972

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	3	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	8	-	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	3	7
Benign and unspecified Neoplasms	1	1	2
Diabetes Mellitus	3	1	4
Anaemias	-	2	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	36	24	60
Other forms of Heart Disease	5	3	8
Cerebrovascular Disease	15	13	28
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	11	6	17
Pneumonia	16	8	24
Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	3	8
Other diseases of Respiratory System	2	1	3
Other diseases of Digestive System	2	1	3
Other diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	1	1	2
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	2	3
All Other Accidents	1	4	5
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	3	1	3
All other external causes	-	1	1
Total all causes	123	87	210



SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services  
for the area

Divisional Medical Officer

Ellis Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
No. 11 Divisional Health Office,  
Lancashire County Council,  
Leigh Road,  
LEIGH, Lancashire.

Telephone: Leigh 73227/8/9

Ambulance Service

Control Centre

Telephone: Swinton 4343

Child Welfare Centre and School Clinic, Market Street, Westhoughton.

Telephone: Westhoughton 3139

Clinics

1. Diphtheria, Measles, Tetanus and Whooping Cough Immunisation and Smallpox and Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

- (a) General Practitioner Service.
- (b) Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.  
Thursday 1.30 p.m. 4.00 p.m.

2. Child Welfare

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.  
Thursday 1.30 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.  
Cricket Pavilion, St. James Street, Westhoughton.  
Wednesday 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.  
Over Hulton Clinic, Salford Road, Over Hulton.  
Tuesday 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesday each month).

3. Child Guidance Clinic (by arrangement)

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.

4. Ophthalmic (by appointment)

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.  
Wednesday and Friday 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon for old people.

6. Orthopaedic (by appointment) and Physiotherapy (alternate Wednesdays)  
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich or  
Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
7. Relaxation and Exercises Class for Expectant Mothers  
Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.  
Tuesday 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
8. Cervical Cytology (For prevention and early diagnosis of cancer of the cervix) (By arrangement) Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
9. Hearing Testing (by appointment)  
Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
10. Dental (by appointment)  
Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning.
11. Family Planning Clinics  
Information regarding these Clinics is obtainable from the Divisional Health Office or from Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
12. School Health and Minor Ailment  
School Health Clinic, Market Street, Westhoughton - Monday 9 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
13. Chest Clinic
  - (a) The Infirmary, Leigh. (Telephone: Leigh 73344)
  - (b) Civic Centre, Bolton. (Telephone: Bolton 22311)
14. Venereal Diseases  
Confidential treatment is available at the following clinics:-
  - (a) Civic Centre, Bolton.
  - (b) St. Luke's Clinic, Duke Street, Liverpool Road, Manchester, 3.
  - (c) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.
  - (d) Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

#### Convalescence

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire County Council. Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh. Sick bed nursing requisites and appliances are available free on loan from the Divisional Health Office or District Nurses.

### Convalescent Treatment

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board.

### Health Visiting Service

Health Visitors School Nurses are employed full time by the Lancashire County Council in the district.

### Home Nursing Service

District Nurses are employed full time in the District by the Lancashire County Council.

### Hospitals

Royal Infirmary, Bolton.

Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth.

Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; and other general and infectious disease hospitals situated in the area of the Regional Hospital Board.

### Laboratory Facilities

Regional Hospital Laboratory facilities at Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

### Maternity Homes

"Haslam", "Havercroft" and "Heaton Grange" Maternity Homes, Bolton.  
"Firs" Maternity Home, Leigh.

### Midwifery Service

Two full time domiciliary midwives are employed in the district by the Lancashire County Council.

### Social Services

The care of children, provision of Home Helps, Day Nurseries and Child Minders, Mental Health Service, Care of the Aged and Physically Handicapped is now available under arrangements made by the Lancashire County Council. Enquiries should be addressed to the Divisional Director of Social Services, Sun Alliance House, Bradshawgate, Bolton.

### Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committee

This body, consisting of representatives of all local voluntary organisations interested in the care and welfare of the aged, works in close association with the statutory services. Amongst the many services it organises and provides, are visiting, chiropody and meals on wheels. The Hon. Secretary is Mrs. E. Merton, 10 Rogers Way, Westhoughton.

### X-Ray Facilities

Available at the Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries. Special facilities for chest X-Ray at the Hospital Board's Dispensaries and Chest Clinics.

### Hearing aids - replacement batteries

These batteries are now issued at the Public Health Department on behalf of the welfare authority (Monday 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon and Thursday 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.)



## SECTION C

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

#### Water Supply

Bolton Corporation supply Westhoughton with water which is satisfactory in regard to quality and quantity. There are several sources of supply, but the larger quantity comes from the Lake District. All water is treated before passing into supply.

During the year a total number of 689 samples of raw water were submitted by Bolton to bacteriological examination and partial chemical analysis and 24 to full chemical analysis in their statutory area of supply. In addition 1,242 samples of filtered and treated water received bacteriological examination and 32 full chemical analysis. The results showed the water to be of excellent quality, B. Coli being absent in 97.91% of potable water samples tested. All water is treated before passing into supply. Twenty samples of water submitted by Westhoughton Public Health Department proved satisfactory and "First draw-off" samples from houses with lead supply pipes showed lead content to be within the prescribed limit of 0.1 p.p.m. as laid down by the World Health Organisation.

Tests of the water show there is no significant plumbo-solvent action. No special action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination. Water was supplied directly from the public mains to serve the total population of 17,729 persons. No houses are supplied by standpipes.

During the year 163 metres of new water mains were completed and 493 metres of existing mains renewed.

#### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

This is largely on the combined system. The construction of three rectangular sedimentation/storm tanks with pipe lines and ancillary work has been completed at Rogers Farm and is in practice the first instalment of a reconstructed sewage disposal plant. A tender in the sum of £860,821 has been accepted for reconstruction of Rogers Farm sewage works and includes inlet works, sedimentation, aeration and final tanks, sludge digesting and drying plant and ancillary works to the design of C.B. Kershaw and Kaufman, Chartered Civil Engineers. Contract work which commenced on the 1st November, 1971 is now well advanced and will allow development in the district to proceed.

An estimated sum of £1,500,000 is to be spent on sewer construction to drain an area covering much of the central part of the district and it is expected work will commence during the early part of 1973.

Apart from the main sewage works at Rogers Farm, there are two subsidiary plants at Hilton House and Marsh Brook. The Dicconson Lane plant is to be replaced by a gravity flow connection to the Aspull sewer.

## Closet Accommodation

In nearly all cases accommodation consists of fresh water closets. A few pail closets are in use however, where main drainage is not available and certain outlying farms use privy middens. It is anticipated these will be replaced by water closets as the district develops.

Numbers and types of closet accommodation existing at the end of 1972 are shown below, the figures for the end of 1971 being shown in comparison.

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>
Number of privy middens	8	10
Number of closets attached to these middens	8	10
Number of pail closets	44	46
Number of dry ashpits	-	-
Number of moveable ashbins (Rounds re-surveyed)	8,044	7,699
Number of trough closets	-	-
Number of waste water closets	9	9
Number of fresh water closets	6,964	6,937

### Conversions during 1972:-

Number of privy closets to fresh W.C.'s	2
Number of privy closets to pails	-
Number of waste water closets to fresh water closets	-
Number of premises at which moveable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles	-
Trough closets to wash down pedestals	-
Number of pail closets to fresh W.C's	2

## Public Cleansing

Refuse Collection and Disposal is carried out by the Local Authority under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Fifteen men and three special purpose refuse collection vehicles are employed emptying about 8,044 bins weekly. A fourth vehicle with two men is employed on salvage collection from shops and removal of bulk refuse from domestic premises. Over thirteen hundred removals of bulky refuse were carried out. It is Council policy to remove most domestic refuse but it is expected that contractors refuse following building work will be removed by the firm concerned. Garden refuse and other refuse can be received from residents at the Garnet Fold tip site during working hours and on the first Saturday morning in each month. The volume of refuse continues to increase but a weekly service was maintained throughout the year. An estimated 4,916 tons of household refuse was collected during the year apart from removals of bulky refuse.



## Public Cleansing (cont'd)

In accordance with the vehicle renewal programme a Shelvoke and Drewry 25 cub. yd. Fore and Aft Tipping collection vehicle was purchased during the year and replaced a side loading vehicle of 12 cubic yard capacity.

Controlled tipping has continued at the Garnet Fold site, off St. Helens Road, Westhoughton. All refuse is covered daily and a high standard of controlled tipping is achieved.

A total of 536 plastic and 1 metal bin was issued to domestic property under the Council's replacement scheme. A limited number of paper sacks are in use at flats.

Street cleansing including litter collection is carried out under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor.

## Salvage

The collection of waste paper and tins was as follows:-

	<u>Waste paper</u>	<u>Loose tins</u>	<u>Income</u>
1972	77 tons 10 cwts. 3 qrs.	14 tons	£720
1971	70 tons 6 cwts	12 tons 12 cwts 1 qr.	£734

Tins have continued to be removed from the tip in the normal process of controlled tipping.

## Public Conveniences

New public conveniences adjoining the Market have been in use for two and a half years. It has been possible using a part time cleaner to maintain a satisfactory standard of cleanliness but a certain amount of vandalism has taken place. A special purpose convenience is in use for handicapped persons. In all conveniences washing facilities with hot and cold water and automatic hand dryers have been provided.

<u>Public Health Inspections</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>
Premises visited	4,247	3,804
Number of visits:-	6,193	5,176
Housing and nuisances	3,150	1,571
Factories	24	33
Infectious diseases	5	59
Food poisoning	-	10
Rodent Control	25	54

<u>Public Health Inspections</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>
Offensive trade	190	449
Schools	14	12
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963	61	49
Shops (Employment of Young Persons)	412	414
Food premises	337	318
Clean Air	1,671	1,835
Miscellaneous	262	350
Noise	42	22
Defects or nuisances:		
Number discovered	1,467	572
Number abated	1,575	571
Number of Notices served:		
Informal	157	149
Statutory	16	3

The Public Health Inspectors were fully occupied during the year dealing with a wide variety of environmental matters. The bulk of work as in previous years related to housing, smoke control and food hygiene. During the year the Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act, 1972 came into operation. No tips in Westhoughton are used for this purpose but notification procedures are in operation where toxic wastes from local factories are sent to commercial tips outside the district.

Close liaison has been maintained with other departments on planning and housing matters and it is pleasing to note the degree of co-operation received and the desire to seek the advice of the Public Health Department in matters which affect the environment, particularly in relation to atmospheric pollution and noise control.

### NOISE

Forty two visits were made in relation to noise and in a number of cases noise level readings taken. Complaints ranged from industrial noise of oil fired boiler, a Launderette, whine of saws at a factory to domestic problems caused by tennage parties; barking dogs and the loud playing of music. A new development has been the installation of externally fixed oil fired central heating boilers at domestic premises. Noise has been reduced by improved insulation and better attention to maintenance but pressure jet boilers are inclined to be noisy and need careful siting in relation to adjoining property.

### Shops

There were 412 inspections of shops carried out in relation to hours of employment of young persons under the provisions of the Shops Act 1950. Individual contraventions were reported to Lancashire County Council for action.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

This Act relates to the welfare of office and shop workers. There were ninety seven registered premises in the district at the end of the year. This figure included sixty three retail shops; twenty offices and eleven catering establishments. Sixty one inspections of registered premises were carried out. The number of persons employed at registered premises totalled four hundred and ninety one, made up of 227 males and 264 females.

A summary of cases where compliance has been requested and of work done is given below:-

Requirements of the Act relating to:	No. of cases where compliance requested	No. of cases where work done
Sanitary conveniences	3	6
Washing facilities	-	2
Cleanliness	5	8
Overcrowding	-	-
Temperature	2	1
Ventilation	5	2
Lighting	2	2
Drinking Water	-	-
Accommodation for clothing	-	2
Sitting facilities	-	-
Seats for sedentary workers	-	-
Eating facilities	-	1
Floors, passages, stairs	4	1
Thermometers	4	4
First Aid	8	4
Fencing of machinery	4	3
Abstract of the Act	3	4

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (cont'd)

Fourteen premises were newly registered during the year. Approximately one third of all registered premises received a general inspection. New plans are always inspected and recommendations on layout; heating; lighting etc., are made to ensure compliance with the Act.



## Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Cont'd)

Retailers are accepting the need to adequately guard food slicing machines and generally standards in registered premises in Westhoughton are good. The majority of premises are small and employ only a few people.

Four accidents were reported during the year and were the subject of investigation:-

- 1) Laceration to left leg and head bruising caused by a loaded container tipping over on to a male employee.
- 2) Cut to left hand of young female due to a knife slipping while cutting meat.
- 3) Broken toe of male employee due to a box of food falling in the process of off loading.
- 4) Strained back of female employee caused while lifting a sack of onions.

These accidents are typical of those occurring in shop premises and relate mainly to the handling of goods or use of knives and similar equipment. Preventative advice was given in each case.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES

An Offensive Trades premises processing animal waste is situated in the district and is subject to an injunction to prevent the creation of nuisance by stench. The operation of the injunction is stayed to a date not later than the 27th October, 1974 to allow works of improvement to be carried out.

Public Health Inspectors made one hundred and ninety inspections in connection with these premises during the year.

## Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

## Swimming Baths and Pools

An indoor swimming pool of 10,000 gallons capacity is in use at the Westhoughton County Primary School, Central Drive. The water is heated, filtered and chlorinated. Three bacteriological samples were taken and proved satisfactory. The Health Department advise and act in consultation with the school staff to ensure satisfactory standards are maintained. The pool was not in operation for a large part of the year.

## Disinfestation

During the year infestations of insects at twenty-eight premises were treated and precautionary spraying carried out prior to vacation of unfit houses and subsequent rehousing in Council property. The phasing out of the more persistent organochlorine insecticides especially D.D.T. has continued and the organophosphorous compound Fenitrothian is used fairly extensively as a replacement. Diazinon lacquer is replacing Dieldrin lacquer for cockroach infestations. Bugs, cockroaches, fleas, wasps, plaster beetles, mites, silver fish were some of the insects which were encountered and received treatment.

## Pet Animals Act, 1951

Two licences were issued to keep a pet shop and are subject to inspection by the Public Health Inspectors.

## Schools

The water supply to the schools in the area was found to be constant and sufficient. All schools now have modern type water closets and eleven inspection were carried out during the year. Regular cleansing and decoration of the conveniences is carried out. Inspections of school meals facilities and kitchens were carried out during the year and advice given as necessary.

## Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1967

Five scrap metal dealers were registered at the end of the year. The enforcement of the Act in relation to the keeping of records is undertaken by the Police.

## Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951.

There are no premises in the area where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

## Rodent Control

During 1972 the work of rodent control continued, the Cleansing Foreman carrying out treatment assisted by a rodent operator.

All rat and mice infestations receive prompt treatment and work at private dwellings is carried out free of charge. Business and other premises are charged on a cost basis. 'Alphakil' - a narcotic poison has replaced Warfarin for mice infestations. Racumin containing coumatetralyl is used as well as Warfarin against rats and can be effective against mice. It is an anticoagulant poison. The technique of mouse baiting lies in the use of numerous small baits well distributed. Alphakil is for indoor use only and should be withdrawn after ten days as mice can become habituated to this poison. It can be used again after an interval of seven days.

## Rodent Control (cont'd)

Three hundred and eleven premises were inspected and well over six hundred visits made for purposes of survey or treatment. Forty-five agricultural premises were also surveyed. Three hundred and twenty nine infestations received treatment. Treatment of sewers was carried out as necessary and sewage treatment works received special attention.

## Moveable Dwellings

Two site licences were in operation during 1972. One caravan only was stationed on each site. In each case licence conditions follow Model Standards issued by the Department of the Environment. Emphasis is placed upon adequate fire precautions. One site certified by the Caravan Club for use by their members only as an overnight halt exists in the district.



## CLEAN AIR

### Smoke Control

Industrial smoke is now at a minimum. Only one boiler plant is using bituminous fuel the rest are oil or gas fired. Approval to a chimney height of forty feet above ground level was given under Section 6 of the Clean Air Act 1968 and related to two oil fired boiler at a school designed to use oil of a low sulphur content. Notification was given of the installation of a gas fired boiler used for heating purposes at a club.

The Council submitted the No. 8 Smoke Control Order to the Ministry during the year comprising one hundred and seventy seven acres of land bounded by Manchester Road, Park Road and Bolton Road and including 469 premises. The No. 7 and No. 8 Orders are due to come into operation on the 1st October, 1973. About 3,500 premises are now subject to Smoke Control Orders covering over 50% of all premises in the district. A large number of properties outside smoke control areas now use smokeless fuel as a matter of cleanliness and convenience. The Smoke Control Programme has been designed to cover as far as practicable the major areas of new development which will initially take place in the district.

### Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution.

Smoke and sulphur dioxide measurement has continued throughout the year at the Library Street site, and as in previous years pollution was highest during the months October to March when domestic fires were in general use.

The average pollution recorded for the year was 76 microgrammes of smoke per cubic metre of air, and 94 microgrammes of sulphur dioxide per cubic metre of air. This compared with 230 microgrammes of smoke and 213 of sulphur dioxide in 1962 when measurements were first taken. While too much reliance cannot be placed on readings from one site these measurements indicate a reduction in smoke of 67% and in sulphur dioxide of 57% and indicate a substantial improvement in the cleanliness of the atmosphere over the last ten years.

## SECTION D

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

#### Milk Supply

Dairy farmers are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Licences to sell special designated milk namely, "Pasteurised" "Sterilised", "Ultra Heat Treated" and "Untreated" are issued by Lancashire County Council as Food and Drugs Authority for the area. Milk distributors licences continue to be issued by the Council.

Action taken by the local authority in relation to samples taken in the district:-

#### a) Raw Milk

##### (1) Tuberculosis - Biological Test

No. of samples - 2 No. negative - 2 No. positive - Nil

##### (11) Brucellosis - Ring Test

No. of samples - 86 No. negative - 69 No. positive - 17

##### Brucellosis - Culture Test

No. of samples - 18 No. negative - 5 No. positive - 13

##### Brucellosis - Biological Test

No. of samples - Nil No. negative - Nil No. positive - Nil

##### (111) Methylene Blue Reduction Test

No. of samples - 22 No. satisfactory - 19 No. unsatisfactory - 3

#### b) "Heat Treated" milk - pasteurised

##### (1) Phosphatase Test

No. of samples - 6 No. satisfactory - 6 No. unsatisfactory - Nil

##### (11) Methylene Blue Reduction Test

No. of samples - 6 No. satisfactory - 6 No. unsatisfactory - Nil

#### c) "Heat Treated" milk - sterilised

##### (1) Turbidity Test

No. of samples - 4 No. satisfactory - 4 No. unsatisfactory - Nil

##### (11) "Ultra Heat Treated" - colony count test

No. of samples - 3 No. satisfactory - 3 No. unsatisfactory - Nil

Sampling over the last few years has made dairy farmers aware of the problem of brucellosis infection of raw milk and most producers are anxious and willing to take all practical steps to reduce the possibility of their herds being infected. Nine cattle excreting brucella organisms were slaughtered.

No notifications of tuberculous milk were forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

#### Ice-cream

Fifty one premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, which is "pre-packed" with the exception of a manufacturer's premises producing "Hot-Mix" ice-cream.

Eight samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and seven were found to be in the provisional Grade 1 and one sample Grade 2.

Thirty-eight inspections in relation to premises and vehicles were carried out during the year.

#### Shell Fish

No cases of illness due to consumption of shell fish were reported.

#### Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

Two samples of liquid egg submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test proved satisfactory. There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

#### Food premises

Number of food premises, by type of business in the district at the end of the year:-

Type of business	No.	A	B	C
General grocers and provision dealers	52	52	52	52
Greengrocers and fruiterers	6	6	6	6
Fishmongers	1	1	1	1
Meat Shops	9	9	9	9
Bakers and/or confections	11	11	11	11
Fried fish shops	13	13	13	13
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	9	9	9	9
Licensed premises, Clubs, canteens, restaurants, snack bars, catering establishments.	69	69	69	69



NOTE: Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 in table above

- A - Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16 relating to washbasins.
- B - Premises to which Regulation 19 relating to sinks applies.
- C - Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19 in relation to sinks for washing food or equipment.

A total of 337 visits were made to food premises during the year. 90 defects were found under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 and 147 defects were remedied during the year.

Inspection in relation to food hygiene is a major part of the work of Public Health Inspectors and every opportunity has been taken during the year to educate food handlers in the safe and clean handling of food. In a number of cases where standards were considered low warning letters were issued and resulted in a necessary improvement.

Particular attention was paid to food delivery vehicles during the year and two firms were instructed to provide better covering for open food and improve general cleanliness of their vehicles.

It has long been argued by Public Health Inspectors that while such premises as Pet Shops have to be licenced, any person can start a food business without the prior authority of the Public Health Department. It is important that persons opening a food business should consult the Public Health Inspector at the outset. Very often time and trouble can be saved if discussions in relation to food hygiene, particularly in relation to the structure and working arrangements, take place at an early enough stage.

In general it can be said steady improvement in food hygiene has been made in the district that there can be no room for complacency.

### Meat

No slaughterhouses were in operation in the district during the year. The inspection of meat and meat products is carried out at food shops as a routine procedure.

### Food condemned

The following foodstuffs were condemned and surrendered:-

Tinned meat	556 lbs.	Tinned custard	47 lbs.
Tinned fruit	194 lbs.	Tinned baby foods	20 lbs.
Tinned vegetables	2575 lbs.	Tinned soup	828 lbs.
Tinned rice pudding	59 lbs.	Spaghetti	64 lbs.
Tinned ravioli	71 lbs.	Frozen food	1749 lbs.
Salad Cream	14 lbs.	Sponge pudding	38 lbs.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority in the district. The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied me with the following information:-

A total of 113 samples was obtained comprising 65 milks (8 of which were Channel Islands Milk) and 48 others as follows:-

1 Sugar Confectionery	1 Hot Pot Pies
1 Mild Beer	1 Milk Dessert, canned
2 Bitter Beer	1 Irish Stew, canned
1 Brown Ale, bottled	1 Barn Cake
1 Pale Ale	1 Cheese Crispbread Starch Reduced
1 Strong Ale, bottled	1 Aspirin Tablets B.P.
2 Fresh Minced Meat	1 Plaice Portions in Breadcrumbs, frozen
1 Beef Sausages	1 Haddock, frozen
4 Pork Sausages	1 Soft Drink Powder
1 Pilchards in Tomato Sauce	1 Breakfast Cereal
1 Sardines in Tomato Sauce	1 Cremosuxidine Suspension
1 Tomato Juice	2 Soup, canned
1 Tomato Sauce	1 Phthalylsulphathiazole Tablets B.P.
1 Sauce	1 Steak & Kidney Pie Pudding, canned
2 Jam	1 Grape Juice, bottle
1 Marmalade	1 Minced meat
1 Lemon Curd	1 Crab Spread
1 Sweets	1 Fruit, canned
1 Biscuits	1 Ham and Chicken Roll, canned
1 Processed Peas, canned	1 Milk Condensed Skimmed Sweetened
1 Minced Beef Loaf, canned	

I give below details of these samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
Sugar Confectionery	Contained 16 mgms of carbonised sugar.	Bakers and complainant informed.
Informal Milk	Freezing Point indicates 1.1% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned. Further sample obtained.
Minced Meat, fresh	Contained added Sulphite preservative (expressed as Sulphur dioxide) 320 parts in one million parts of the minced meat.	Prosecution Fined £25 Costs £13

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
Minced Meat, fresh	Contained 400 p.p.m. Sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide)	Formal sample obtained
Informal Milk	Fat content 2.70% Deficient 10% fat	Producer notified
Informal Milk	Fat content 2.80% Deficient 6% fat	Producer notified
Hot Pot Pies	Contained 2 weed seeds resembling a Veronica species weighing 9 ngms - these are very common weeds of arable land and could have been introduced with ingredients.	Complainant informed. Bakery notified.
Pork Sausages	Lean Meat 28.5% Fat 36.5% Total Meat 65.0%	Vendor cautioned
	Pork sausages should contain not less than 32.5% lean meat.	
Steak and Kidney Pie Pudding, canned	The foreign object consisted of calcium phosphate and resembled a phosphate renal calculus weighing 1.87 gms; Phosphatic renal calculi are usually associated with unsatisfactory kidney conditions.	Complainant informed. Manufacturer cautioned.

#### Poultry Inspection

- (1) Number of poultry processing premises within district ..... 1
- (11) Number of visits to these premises ..... 50
- (111) Total number of birds processed during the year ..... 179,794
- (1V) Types of birds processed - hens
- (V) Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption 1.8%
- (V1) Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption 8,104 lbs.
- (V11) Regular visits are made to the premises and carcasses showing evidence of disease are rejected by the operator or in doubtful cases set aside for inspection by the Public Health Department.  
Attempts at these premises to carry on production while reconstruction work was in progress led to a rapid deterioration in hygiene and under threat of prosecution the premises closed at the end of September. When all necessary work has been satisfactorily completed production will commence with new management in control. Close liaison has been maintained with the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.



The Imported Food Regulations, 1968.

These regulations allow imported food to be transported in locked containers from the ports for inspection at their point of destination. This is a growing practice allied to modern methods of handling imports at the docks. During the year a number of bags of pickling onions from America were inspected and passed as fit for human consumption.

## SECTION E

### Housing

#### Statistics

Thirteen dwellings were completed during the year by private builders and in addition forty nine council dwellings were erected. Development will be under way during 1973 as sewerage works reach a more advanced stage. The district is planned to reach a population of 40,000 by the year 1991.

1,411 dwellings in Westhoughton are owned and maintained by the Council. Much of the private housing is now owner/occupied and this has a tendency to raise housing standards.

#### Sufficiency of supply of houses

There are 659 applicants on the Council's Housing List. 399 applicants desired smaller accommodation and 373 of these were already householders. 260 applicants desired houses and of these 136 were lodger families. There is an increasing demand for council accommodation as house prices are soaring beyond the reach of a large proportion of wage earners. The cost of housing is a particular hardship to young couples. The provision of satisfactory houses at a reasonable price is a priority and the building of new houses and improvement of older houses is vital.

At the end of the year 24 x 1 bedroom dwellings were under construction at King Street.

The provision of 18 small dwellings on the Church Street/Wesley Street site; 34 small dwellings at Whitehorse and 90 dwellings at Daisy Hill are contemplated.

#### Fitness of Houses

During the year Clearance Areas were declared by the Council in relation to Smithy Street consisting of ten houses. Church Street (No. 2) and James Street (No. 2) consisting of two houses and three shop premises, and Wigan Road (No. 3) consisting of four houses. Forty four unfit houses were demolished and one unfit house closed. A new Clearance Programme 1973/77 containing 105 houses was formulated during the year. Houses on the 1967/72 Programme have now been dealt with by representation by the Medical Officer of Health except in one or two cases where the property has been made fit following renovation. Some delay has occurred in relation to rehousing from unfit properties due to the need to keep a small pool of council houses vacant for the purpose of carrying forward the improvement of council property. It is hoped however, that during 1973 substantial progress in necessary rehousing will have been made.

During the year 53 dwellings were subject to discretionary improvement grant applications and 55 dwellings to standard grant applications in the private sector. In addition the Council submitted 158 applications for discretionary improvement grants in relation to Council houses.

## Fitness of Houses (cont'd)

Work in relation to improvement grants has continued to absorb an increasing amount of time. By the end of the year the block improvement of about half of the Kearsley Street/Hindley Road houses owned by the Council and formerly belonging to the National Coal Board, had been completed. In total therefore 152 council houses have now been improved; schemes are in hand in relation to a further 197 houses and there is authority to proceed when practicable with the improvement of a further 113 houses.

Three thousand inspections were made during the year relating to the fitness of houses, part of this work being a survey carried out for the purposes of slum clearance. Defects were remedied at 110 houses as a result of the service of notices or other action by the Department. The number and type of defects found and remedied by the end of the year are shown below:-

Type of Defects at Dwellinghouses	Found	Remedied
Drains	60	55
Roofs	47	57
Chimneys	59	49
Eavesgutters	62	69
Rainwater pipes	54	22
Walls	112	145
Damp	95	167
Wallplaster	135	169
Ceiling Plaster	125	161
Sinks	27	22
Sink waste	2	2
Skirtings	14	8
Floors	90	62
Stairs	9	23
Windows	181	185
Ventilation	-	1
Doors	82	79
Food storage	28	42
Food preparation	5	-
Food cooking	-	-
Lighting (natural)	5	6
Firegrates	80	28
Closets	51	20
Yards and passages	40	54
Other defects	6	4
Total	1,375	1,426

Fitness of houses (cont'd)

Two Qualification Certificates were issued to landlords under the Housing Act 1969 after the property had been put in good repair enabling the registration of a fair rent and the conversion of the houses to a regulated tenancy. Three Provisional Qualification Certificates were issued to enable landlords to provide modern amenities and carry out repairs so that in due course a fair rent could be registered on completion of the necessary work subject to the consent of the tenant.



## SECTION F

### Prevalence of, and control over infectious and other diseases

#### Diphtheria

No case occurred in the district. The need to continue immunisation however, remains.

#### Dysentery

No case was notified.

#### Food Poisoning

No case was notified.

#### Measles

A total of 20 notifications were received.

#### Meningococcal Infection

One case was notified.

#### Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever

No case was notified.

#### Poliomyelitis

No case was reported. The need to continue immunisation is important.

#### Scarlet Fever

One case was notified.

#### Smallpox

No case or contact reported.

#### Tuberculosis

One new case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified during the year. Two cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were also notified.

#### Whooping Cough

No case was notified.

#### Infective Jaundice

No case was notified.

All provisions governing the notification of infectious diseases and food poisoning are now to be found in Sections 47 to 49 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 and the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968.

Infectious diseases now to be notified by medical practitioners to the Medical Officer of Health are:-

Acute encephalitis	Ophthalmia neonatorum
Acute meningitis	Paratyphoid fever
Acute poliomyelitis	Plague
Anthrax	Relapsing fever
Cholera	Scarlet fever
Diphtheria	Smallpox
Dysentery (amoebic or bacillary)	Tetanus
Infective Jaundice	Tuberculosis
Leprosy	Typhoid fever
Leptospirosis	Typhus
Malaria	Whooping Cough
Measles	Yellow fever

Food poisoning is also notifiable.

Notification of the following diseases is no longer required:-

Acute influenzal pneumonia	Erysipelas
Acute primary pneumonia	Membranous croup
Acute rheumatism	Puerperal pyrexia

notified during the year 1972

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# Tuberculosis

## New Cases and Mortality during 1972

Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non respiratory		Respiratory		Non respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25				1				
35		1						
45			1					
55								
65								
and over								
	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Total	1		2		-		-	

Number of cases on Register at end of year:-

Respiratory Tuberculosis: 23

Non-respiratory Tuberculosis: 15



## SECTION G

### Factories Act 1961

Visits to factories during the year showed that standards of sanitary accommodation are generally satisfactory. Co-operation with firms was good and legal action to enforce the provisions of the Factories Act was found unnecessary. Cotton Spinning and Weaving; Steel Erecting; Metal Box Manufacture; Manufacturing Chemists; Paint; Raincoat and Plasterboard Manufacture are the chief industries in the area.

### Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

#### Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	2	2	-	Nil
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	73	24	4	Nil
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding outworkers premises).	6	6	2	Nil
	81	32	6	Nil

Factories Act, 1961 (cont'd)

1. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H. M. Insp. (4)	By H. M. Insp. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	4	4	-	-	-
	8	8	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act - Three outworkers are employed in the district

Nature of work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) C (2)	No. of defaults in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Clothing Manufacture	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carry-cot manufacture	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



